

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 2-5 have been amended for clarity. The term "for" has also been eliminated from the fourth and fifth paragraphs of Claim 2 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. New dependent Claims 9-12 have been added to provide additional protection for certain aspects of Applicants' invention.

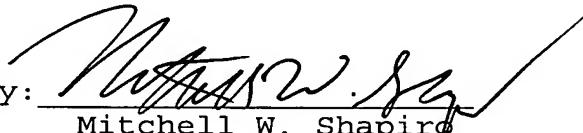
In response to the rejection of Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 for the purpose of disqualifying Okada et al. '219 as prior art. The Declaration has been executed by three of the four named inventors. The fourth inventor was unavailable to execute the Declaration due to foreign travel. A supplemental submission including the fourth inventor's Declaration will follow as soon as the fourth inventor is available.

In that the subject matter of the Okada et al. patent relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) does not constitute prior art to the instant application, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16

and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

MWS:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
(703) 903-9000

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheet for Fig. 9 of the drawings as originally filed. Lead line 157 has been extended to the left side ball.